Change in visa rules by British Government

†281. SMT MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pelased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently British government had changed visa rules for entry to their nation as well as for those who travel to other countries *via* their country causing difficulties to Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) to (c) British, visa rules governing entry into the country have not been changed recently. However, rules regarding British transit visa have changed.

Nationals of specified countries, including India, will now require a visa to transit through the UK, except in the case of the following categories of travellers:

Holders of valid US/Canadian visas who also hold a ticket to or from the US/Canada routed *via* the UK, holders of US Permanent Residence Cards (Green Cards) issued on or after 21 April, 1998, holders of Canadian Permanent Residence Cards isued on or after 28 June, 1998, holders of Category D visas isued by EU/EEA member States, which are valid for more than 3 months, holders of EU residence permits and holders of diplomatic or official passports issued by the Government of India.

As can be seen from above, Indian nationals transitting through UK on their way to countries outside North America and European Union would now be required to obtain transit visas for UK.

Visa-on-Arrival

282. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Visa-on-Arrival' project to facilitate the arrival of foreign tourists in India, has been cleared;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.